



CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USER GROUP
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EDITOR'S NOTES

I'd like to apologize to all of our readers for the delay of this month's issue of the Nite-Times News. Unfortunately, due to work related obligations, it was unavoidable. We have experienced a mild reorganization of the CATUG which has resulted in the responsibilities of the following positions being assumed by new individuals:

CATUG Coordinator

Dave Lebowitz

Night Owl Special Timex SubOp

Ed Schoen

QL Public Domain Librarian

Butch Weinberg

Nite-Times News Editor

Gary Lessenberry

We are still in need of a volunteer to take over the TS-2068 public domain library. That position has been vacant ever since Don Brumfield was transferred out of state in May.

The Nite-Times News is a Public Domain feature of the Nite Owl Special BBS. If you desire to have a hard-copy mailed to your home, please provide \$6.00 per year to cover the cost of postage. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear on here, please provide credit to the author and where it came from. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, leave email to Gary Lessenberry (ID30) or write to me at 1885A Yorktown Avenue, Great Lakes, Illinois 60088.

Articles that appear in this issue are:

Zterm Fix Misprint

Telecommuter's Corner

Fido Network Update

1988 Timex-Sinclair Computerfest

Timex-Sinclair BBS Update

On The QL

An Easy Improvement For Your TS-2068 Keyboard

ZTERM FIX MISPRINT

Provided by Pat Frangella

Pat Frangella spotted a misprint in the program listing for

the Zterm-64 Xmodem fix. The error is in line 60 and should read as follows:

```
60 READ adrs: READ Size: For i=Adrs to Adrs+Size-1: Read v:
```

```
POKE 1,v: NEXT i: RETURN
```

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORNER

By Gary Lessenberry

This month I'd like to chat about something other than Timex supportive Bulletin Boards, modems or software. There are many various telecomm services that we telecommuters can access via any computer. The system that I will examine is called a Diversi-Dial or DDial as many refer to it. It is an Apple based multi user system that usually has seven phone lines coming into it. Each phone line has a separate number, but there is also a system master number. When you call the master number, there is special search circuitry (provided by the phone company) that will scan the lines and connect you to the first open line that it encounters.

The DDials are chat systems. A chat system is where several users may get online together for conferencing. These systems are usually open forum but with strict policing by their Sysops and Co-Sysops. Seldom do you find any rude or vulgar activities being tolerated on a DDial.

Along with the multi-user chat capabilities, there is also RAM-based email that can be read once, and only once before it is destroyed! The Sysop can also post general bulletins that can be accessed by all or displayed to all online users at random if the Sysop so desires.

There are a few basic commands that you will need to get started on a DDial as listed below:

- /H Using this command followed by your name will allow all of your transmissions to be preceded by your name.
- /I This is the system information inquiry and will help educate you on how to use the DDial.
- /? This will call up this master command list for your examination.
- /P This command, followed by another user's line number will allow you to send personal messages without public viewing.

It should be noted that most DDials are membership systems. Due to the tremendous overhead, very few people can afford to operate without subscribers. These systems will usually have three levels of users: 1. Non-members who may logon for ten minute increments with limited privledges when the system is open to the public, 2. Guests who have non-subscription passwords that allow them limited privledges (more than non-members) and access to the system when it is locked from the public, 3. Members are allowed full privledges at all times.

If you have a few minutes one night and have one of the below listed systems near-by, give it a call. Like me, you may find that it is a great wealth of information, contacts and

fellowship that stretches beyond the Timex-Sinclair community.

SYSTEM	NAME	LOC PHONE NUMBER
01	Diversi-Dial #1	Mi 313/553-4373
02	Bloomford County	Il 815/633-6533
03	Beyond Reality	NJ 201/972-8731
04	Utopia	Il 312/925-4879
05	Compu-Chat	Mo 314/721-2112
06	Out of the Blue	NY 718/615-2026
07	First Amendment	NJ 201/377-1803
08	Austin Party Line	Tx 512/892-6521
09	Three Ring Circuit	Ct 203/926-1557
10	Atlanta Chatline	Ga 404/922-2428
11	Computer Connection	Nv 702/734-8724
12	Spender's Never Inn	Il 815/633-4400
13	Great Beyond	NY 718/339-5053
14	Link Line	NY 716/823-1409
15	Isle-Chat	NY 516/822-0144
16	La-D-Dial	Ca 213/369-1057
17	Inter-Chat	NJ 201/861-7680
21	Fantasia	Fl 305/777-7580
24	Kaleidoscope	Il 312/968-4820
25	Joe's Speak-Ez	NY 718/461-1196
26	Arcturan Outpost	Tx 512/992-4782
27	Falken's Maze	NY 516/889-8511
28	Philly-Chat	Pa 215/825-9383
29	Hotel California	Ca 714/842-7476
31	Party Line	Tx 512/829-1951
32	Forum	Tx 817/732-2121
33	Interact	Tx 713/998-0346
34	Rover M.A.C.	Tx 817/461-2500
35	Flash-Talk	NJ 201/743-4850
36	Kink Heaven	Il 312/433-7340
38	Call Box	Il 312/741-9782
39	Sofia System	Ca 408/257-1853
40	Frankly Speaking	NJ 201/633-0569
41	Attic Static	NJ 201/654-1680
42	ENChat	NY 718/891-8099
43	Ritz D-Dial	Tx 713/568-3693
44	Playpen	Pa 215/271-9660
50	Cloud Nine	Tx 713/859-3962
51	5150 Chatline	Ma 617/289-8023
66	Sanitarium	NY 718/692-0062
69	Cat House	Mi 313/464-3388

FIDO NETWORK UPDATE

By Gary Lessenberry

The Timex-Sinclair Fido Network is off to a slow, but determined start. Below are listed the active Fido users who have sent their Net/Node addresses to me.

112/4	Tom Phillips
157/697	Thomas Simon
102/641	Ed Grey
114/27	Pete Fischer
15/6	JJ's Fido
115/969	Gary Lessenberry
102/2801	Toney Gomez

1988 TIMEX-SINCLAIR COMPUTERFEST

From Time Designs Magazine

The May/June issue of Time Designs announced plans for a 1988 Timex-Sinclair Computerfest that will be held near Orlando Florida sometime in March. This show will be sponsored by the North East Florida TSUG and the TASBAM group. The location is one where the families will be able to find plenty to do while their Timexers go about their business. With Disney World, Sea World and many other attractions available as well as off season rates, it may be a perfect time to schedule a full vacation. For additional information, contact Eric Johnson at 249 N. Harden Ave., Orange City, Florida 32763.

TIMEX-SINCLAIR BBS UPDATE

By Gary Lessenberry

I have two new or confirmed bulletin boards to discuss this month. The first is called Downloader's Anonymous, and their phone number is (416) 844-2035. This system is located in Toronto, Canada and it provides a message base and file area for use by the Toronto Timex-Sinclair Users Club. The system uses Opus software which is one of the newer versions of Fido. The Timex message base on this system is relatively new and it appears to have medium to heavy usage. The calling rates from Chicago during the low cost period (after 11:00 PM) are 22 cents for the first minute and 18 cents for each additional minute.

Pete Fischer told me about Mainstreet Data BBS several months ago, and I made several attempts at calling this system and verifying what was available in the way of Timex-Sinclair support. I had given up any hope of getting a response from the Sysop a few months ago, but I received a card in the mail the other day and provided the following information:

"Mainstreet Data (619) 439-6624, supports the Timex/Sinclair 1000 and the ZX-81. They offer a sub-board for discussions, and an upload/download section featuring some of the finest software written for orphaned computers. These are Xmodem downloads using Mini-Xmodem 1.7! Mainstreet Data is a membership system, but they offer complimentary passwords to qualified individuals."

I have not yet been able to get a password to examine Mainstreet Data and thus, this information remains as the unchallenged claims of the Sysop. For more information, write to Rainer Mueller, P.O.Box 4442, Oceanside, California 92054.

ON THE QL

By Butch Weinberg

Well here is my first attempt to write something on something. Since I have owned my QL longer than other CATUG users, I will try to give you some of the information that I have found.

New owners of QL computers BEWARE! You should NEVER turn on your QL unless there is some form of video device connected to it (even if it is turned off!). You may destroy the video chip if there is no video load.

I'd like to share the first hardware problem that I've encountered. It was a bad cord (computer end) on my power supply. It is a problem that many owners have had. The best way to determine if yours is defective is gently wiggle the cord (not the plug) about six inches from the computer while power is applied. If the cord is defective, the computer will do strange things, mostly turning on and off. If this does happen, shut down your system and send your power supply for replacement. Do not continue to use this power supply if you value your machine!

According to Bob Howard (Timelinez), you should beware of WHEN ERROR... END WHEN as it is bugged. The error flag is never reset.

Below are a few pokes to try with your QL:

POKE_W 163976,255	Caps ON
POKE_W 163976,0	Caps OFF
POKE 163891,1	Freeze the screen
POKE 98403,2	Blank the screen
POKE 98403,0	Un-blank the screen
POKE 98403,64	Try it!
POKE 98403,8	Try it!
POKE_L 163900,0	Disable BREAK

Next month I hope to have the Super Toolkit II ROM and be able to provide some insight on it as well as some info about the help that a 512 RAM expansion can provide when you're handling large files in Quill.

AN EASY IMPROVEMENT FOR YOUR TS-2068 KEYBOARD

By Al Feng

Chiclet-type keyboards are fine for hand held calculators, but they leave a lot to be desired on an otherwise full-sized computer keyboard. Both the TS-2068 and the Spectrum are handicapped by this one weakness as users of Tasword II and Mscript will attest. For those of you who have a desire to improve your TS-2068/Spectrum keyboard, but do not have the skill or inclination to rewire one of the many mechanical keyboards available on the market, nor the funds for a SAGA 3 ELITE Keyboard (\$100.00), have a fairly simple solution that

can be implemented in less than a half hour's time.

The following solution evolved after several unsuccessful attempts to rewire a number of salvage keyboards. Rather than attempt to rewire yet another mechanical keyboard, it finally occurred to me that I could "glue" a set of keytops directly onto the chiclets. What you will need other than your TS-2068 is a set of keytops, and an appropriate adhesive.

If you don't already have a set of keytops, you can find "salvage" keyboards at any number of outlets. The most readily available was designed for the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A computer. This is both inexpensive (between \$3.95 and 5.95) and adequate. Try looking for it at a Radio Shack if you have one in your area. Another supplier of keyboards (TI 99/4A, COMMODORE 64, ADAM) is AMERICAN DESIGN COMPONENTS (62 Joseph St., Moonachie, NY 07074). The keytops from some other keyboards may have stems on their bottoms which must be removed. If this is the case, they may be trimmed off using an X-acto razor saw.

I used SHOE-GOO as the adhesive (it is a non-reactive, rubber cement-like product for repairing athletic shoes). GOOP, a similar product, will "eat" into plastic. The SHOE-GOO should be applied very sparingly to avoid excess dripping down the sides of the chiclet (this is the only hazard which you should encounter in the procedure). If too much is applied, it is better to wait until the compound has hardened. The excess can be peeled and/or trimmed away, and the keytop reattached.

There are several alternate solutions to resolve the matter of non-matching symbols. You can paint new symbols over the "wrong" engravings; or, you can apply LIQUID PAPER for INK, and then draw the correct symbols in place; or make an overlay from a self-sticking lable covered by clear contact paper. The LIQUID PAPER is probably the easiest solution.

Allow the SHOE-GOO to harden over night, tape a copy of the keyboard from either the reference card or your User Manual onto the top of your computer, and enjoy your improved keyboard!

JULY C. A. T. U. G. MEETING

The July meeting of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group will be at 12:00 on Saturday, the 25th, at the residence of Gary Lessenberry, 1885A Yorktown Ave, Great Lakes, Illinois.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on I-295 (Tri-State Tollway). Exit at Rt 137 Buckley Road. This exit follows the Rockfield Road exit and the Lake Forrest Oasis. Drive east on Buckley thru three traffic signals and turn left at the fourth signal (Rt 131 Greenbay Road). Drive one block to the first traffic light (Saratoga Ave) and turn right. Drive one block and turn left on to Yorktown. 1885A is the second driveway on the right. For more help call (312) 473-9415.